

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 CG-00
DLOS-09 OES-07 /114 W
-----024510 050841Z /10

R 050829Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5831
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IMCO, PORG, PGOV, GH
SUBJECT: IMCO: THOMAS MENSAH, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIVISION NOMINATED TO
NEW GHANIAN CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

REF: ACCRA 3463

1. REFTEL, WHICH REPORTED NOMINATION OF THOMAS A. MENSAH OF IMCO TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF 23-MEMBER COMMISSION TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR GHANA, REQUESTED EMBASSY TO PROVIDE BIO INFORMATION ON MENSAH SINCE 1973 AND FOR ANY COMMENTS. MENSAH IS PRESENTLY AT A UN MEETING IN NEW YORK AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO LONDON UNTIL THIS WEEKEND.

2. SINCE 1973, HE HAS TAKEN ON A MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO) AND IS PRESENTLY THE NUMBER 2 MAN IN THE ORGANIZATION AFTER SECGEN C.P. SRIVASTAVA. ONLY 46 THIS MONTH, HE WAS MADE DIRECTOR OF THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIVISION AS WELL AS OF THE LEGAL DIVISION IN 1977 WHEN THE POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WAS LEFT VACANT. HE WAS UPGRADED TO A D-2 UNCLASSIFIED LEVEL IN THE UN SYSTEM. HE NOT ONLY HOLDS A LAW DEGREE FROM

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THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON BUT ALSO EARNED AN L.L.M. IN 1962 AND A J.S.D. IN 1964 FROM YALE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL WHERE HE WAS A STIRLING GRADUATE FELLOW. A FULL CURRICULUM VITAE IS AVAILABLE IF EMBASSY DESIRES IT.

3. EMBASSY SHIPPING ATTACHES HAVE HAD CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HIM. HE IS VERY COMPETENT, EASY TO WORK WITH AND FRIENDLY, THOUGH NOT EFFUSIVE, AND ALWAYS WITH A PARTICULAR RESERVE OR DIGNITY. HE IS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE ESSENCE OF A LEGAL SITUATION QUICKLY AND STATE THE PROBLEM SUCCINCTLY. HIS LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS AND HIS ABILITY TO CHAIR MEETINGS APPEAR QUITE ADEQUATE FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION. HE MAY NOT BE AS GOOD AS AN ADMINISTRATOR. HE ADMINISTERS HIS DIVISION IN IMCO WITH A VERY LIGHT HAND AND HAS TENDED NOT TO MIX IN AND SETTLE INTERNAL PERSONNEL PROBLEMS WHEN THEY HAVE ARISEN.

4. HE IS RESPECTED AND WELL LIKED BY HIS COLLEAGUES. HE IS NOT KNOWN TO COMMENT VERY OFTEN OR FREELY ON POLITICS, BUT THE IMPRESSION OF SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND THE EMBASSY IS THAT HE DISTRUSTS RADICAL CHANGE AND ADMIRES THE U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT HE KNOWS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GHANA'S HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG FROM THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE AT SCHOOL TOGETHER IN GHANA.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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